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Bolbostetha luminaria sp. nov. (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Alleculinae: Alleculini), the first known species of the genus living in Laos

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Coleoptera; Tenebrionidae; Alleculinae; Alleculini; *Bolbostetha*; taxonomy; description; new species; Laos; Oriental Region.

Abstract. – The new species of Alleculini Laporte, 1840 - *Bolbostetha luminaria* **sp**. **nov**., as the first record of the genus from Laos (Xieng Khouang Province) is described and illustrated.

Novák V., 2026. – *Bolbostetha luminaria* **sp**. **nov**. (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Alleculinae: Alleculini), the first known species of the genus living in Laos. *Faunitaxys*, 14(14) : 1 – 4.

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Introduction

The genus *Bolbostetha* Fairmaire 1896 with the type species *Bolbostetha soleata* Fairmaire 1896 was established by Fairmaire (1896). Borchmann (1910) knew only two species worldwide, Novák & Pettersson (2008) five species and Novák (2020a) six species from the Palaearctic Region. The genus comprises 52 species today (Novák 2008, 2020b, 2022, 2024, 2025a, b); 42 species living in the Oriental Region (most of them were described from Indonesia and Malaysia). Three species are known from Thailand (Novák 2020, 2025a), four species were described from Vietnam (Novák 2022, 2025b), four species described from Southern parts of China increase species known from the Palaearctic Region to 10. Most of them have dorsal surface dark, only two species *Bolbostetha minfongica* Novák, 2024 from China (Hainan Island) and *Bolbostetha thailandica* Novák, 2020 have dorsal surface pale. No species is known from the area of Laos so far.
The first species from the territory of Laos, *Bolbostetha luminaria* **sp**. **nov**., is described, illustrated including male genitalia and compared with the most similar species *Bolbostetha minfongica* Novák, 2024 from China (Hainan Island) and *Bolbostetha thailandica* Novák, 2020 from Thailand (Hua Hin District), both with pale dorsal surface.

Material and Methods

Two important morphometric characteristics used for the descriptions of species of the subfamily Alleculinae, the 'ocular index' dorsally (Campbell & Marshall 1964) and 'pronotal index' (Campbell 1965), are used in this paper as well. The ocular index equals (100 × minimum dorsal distance between eyes) / (maximum width of head across eyes). The pronotal index is calculated as (100 × length of pronotum along midline) / (width across basal angles of pronotum).
'Type material' information is taken from recent locality labels.
In the list of type material, a slash (/) separates data in separate rows.

The following collection codes are used:
NMTJ collection of National Museum, Tokio, Japan;
VNPC private collection of Vladimír Novák, Praha, Czech Republic.
Measurements of body parts and corresponding abbreviations used in text are as follows:
AL - total antennae length,
BL - maximum body length,
EL - maximum elytral length,
EW - maximum elytral width,
HL - maximum length of head (visible part),
HW - maximum width of head,
OI - ocular index dorsally,
PI - pronotal index dorsally,
PL - maximum pronotal length,
PW - pronotal width at base,
RLA - ratios of relative lengths of antennomeres 1-11 from base to apex (3=1.00),
RL/WA - ratios of length / maximum width of antennomeres 1-11 from base to apex,
RLT - ratios of relative lengths of tarsomeres 1-5 respectively 1-4 from base to apex (1=1.00).
Measurements were made with an Olympus SZ 40 stereoscopic microscope with continuous magnification and with the Soft Imaging System AnalySIS. Snapshots were taken and processed by using a Canon EOS 550 D camera and Canon Macro Photo Lens MP-E and Helicon Focus 7.7.5 software.

Taxonomy

Genus ***Bolbostetha*** Fairmaire, 1896
Type species: *Bolbostetha soleata* Fairmaire, 1896.

***Bolbostetha luminaria* sp. nov.**
(Fig. 1-6)
ZooBank: https://zoobank.org/5AAD14A2-CF06-4A41-9859-F0BF82841C4A

Holotype, ♂, LAOS, Xieng Khouang prov. / Mt. Samsoum, 2.291 m; / 19°08´28´´ N 103°48´12´´E / 20.V.2024, P. Viktora lgt., (VNPC).

Reviewer :
Jiří Háva (*Prague-west, Czech Republic*) - https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8076-9538 - https://zoobank.org/71D662DB-2F3D-4418-98B6-E1DF82895AC5

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Paratypes

1 ♀, same data as holotype, (VNPC);

2 ♀, same data as holotype, but 23.V.2024;

1 ♀, same data as holotype, but 27.V.2024, (VNPC);

1 ♀, same data as holotype, but 2.VI.2024, (VNPC);

1 ♂, LAOS XIENG KHOUANG / Phou Sam Soum / alt. 1978 m / 19.156333° 103.773134° / 11 V 2019 Light trap / leg. T.HIGURASHI / Permit: 08/05/2019, (NMTJ).

The types are provided with a printed red label: 'Bolbostetha / luminaria sp. nov. / HOLOTYPUS or PARATYPUS / V. Novák det. 2025'.

Type locality. – Laos, Xieng Khouang Province, Mount Samsoum, 19°08´28´´N, 103°48´12´´E, 2291 m.

Description of the holotype

Habitus. – As in Fig. 1, narrow, elongate, *Leptura*-shaped, shiny, from ochre yellow to dark brown, dorsal surface with pale setae, punctures and fine microgranulation, BL 11.17 mm. Widest near elytral humeri; BL/EW 3.88.

Head (Fig. 2). – Reddish brown, approximately as long as wide through the eyes, distinctly wider than anterior margin and slightly narrower than base of pronotum. Dorsal surface shiny with coarse punctures, long, pale setae and microgranulation. Posterior part slightly darker than anterior half and clypeus. – *Clypeus* transverse, half-heart shaped, surface with long pale setae, punctures and microgranulation, slightly excised in middle. HW 1.49 mm; HW/PW 0.77; HL (visible part) 1.50 mm. – *Eyes* large, transverse, excised, space between eyes distinctly narrower than diameter of one eye, approximately as wide as length of antennomere 1; OI equal to 24.37. – *Antenna* long, (AL(1-11) 8.94 mm, distinctly exceeding three quarters body length, AL(1-11)/BL 0.80), antennomeres narrow. – *Dorsal surface* with short, pale setae, microgranulation and sparse, shallow punctures. – *Antennomeres* 1-3 semi-matte, antennomeres; 4-11 matte, distinctly longer than antennomere 3. Antennomere 2 shortest.
RLA(1-11): 0.60 : 0.31 : 1.00 : 1.54 : 1.54 : 1.48 : 1.47 : 1.44 : 1.41 : 1.31 : 1.21.
RLA/WA(1-11): 2.14 : 1.30 : 5.04 : 8.41 : 9.21 : 8.91 : 8.83 : 9.10 : 8.90 : 7.52 : 6.91.
Maxillary palpus. – Ochre yellow, shiny, with pale setae, punctures and microgranulation. Palpomeres 2 and 3 distinctly narrowest at base and widest at apex, ultimate palpomere widely triangular.

Pronotum (Fig. 2). – Pale reddish brown, bell-shaped, shiny, convex, widest near middle of lateral margins, very slightly wider than long, distinctly narrower than elytra at humeri. Dorsal surface with pale setae, dense punctures and fine microgranulation. PL 1.80 mm; PW 1.94 mm; PI equal to 92.78. Border lines narrow, margins conspicuous from dorsal view. Base very finely bisinuate, anterior margin almost straight, slightly rounded in middle, lateral margins very slightly arcuate, anterior and posterior angles obtuse.

Elytra. – Bicolor, narrow, elongate, slightly convex, shiny, widest near humera. Dorsal surface ochre yellow with dark brown strip near suture as in Fig. 1, with pale setae. EL 7.87 mm; EW 2.88 mm; EL/EW 2.73. Elytral striae with rows of coarse, relatively small punctures, elytral intervals slightly convex, with punctures slightly smaller than those in striae and microgranulation.

Scutellum. – Pale reddish brown with sides darker, pentagonaly shaped, surface with microgranulation.

Elytral epipleura. – Well-developed, ochre yellow, with dense, small punctures in basal half narrowing to ventrite 1, then narrow with pale setae becoming parallel on apical part.

Legs. – Long, ochre yellow. Dorsal surface with dark setae, microgranulation and small punctures. Protibiae (Fig. 3) very slightly arcuate, with small thorn near middle and widened near apex. Profemora distinctly wider than meso- and metafemora. Protarsomeres 2-4, mesotarsomeres 3 and 4 and penultimate metatarsomeres widened and lobed. RLT: 1.00 : 0.66 : 0.73 : 1.17 : 1.91 (protarsus); 1.00: 0.40 : 0.45 : 0.50 : 1.12 (mesotarsus); 1.00 : 0.50 : 0.40 : 0.80 (metatarsus). Protarsal claws relatively small, ochre yellow, with more than 20 teeth.

Ventral side of body. – Reddish brown with small punctures. Abdomen reddish brown, ventrite 1-3 dark brown in middle, shiny with recumbent, pale setae, dense punctures and microgranulation. Ultimate and penultimate ventrites pale reddish brown, ultimate ventrite excised in sides of apical part as in Fig. 4.

Aedeagus (Fig. 5, 6). – Strong, ochre yellow, shiny. Basal piece slightly rounded laterally and narrowing in dorsal view. Apical piece wide, triangular dorsally, beak-shaped in both views. Ratio of length of apical piece to length of basal piece in dorsal view 1: 4.35.

Female has body wider and stronger than male. Space between eyes is wider (OI approximately 33, in male approximately 25), pronotum is shorter and wider (PI approximately 81; in male PI approximately 93) than in male. Protarsal claws have only 13 visible teeh.

Measurements of female body

BL 11.57 mm;
HL 1.60 mm;
HW 1.63 mm;
OI 31.06;
PL 1.73 mm;
PW 2.06 mm;
PI 83.98;
EL 8.24 mm;
EW 3.24 mm;
HW/**PW** 0.79;
BL/**EW** 3.36;
EL/**EW** 2.54.
RLA(1-11): 0.60 : 0.29 : 1.00 : 1.58 : 1.61 : 1.67 : 1.70 : 1.64 : 1.64 : 1.43 : 0.92.
RLA/WA(1-11): 2.03 : 1.42 : 4.54 : 7.15 : 7.60 : 8.21 : 8.70 : 8.39 : 8.82 : 7.68 : 5.44.
RLT: 1.00 : 0.74 : 0.84 : 1.18 : 2.05 (protarsus); 1.00: 0.53 : 0.48 : 0.55 : 1.42 (mesotarsus); 1.00 : 0.44 : 0.51 : 0.90 (metatarsus).

Variability. – The type specimens somewhat vary in size; each character is given as its mean value, with full range in parentheses.

Males (n=2)

BL 10.94 mm (10.70-11.17 mm);
HL 1.51 mm (1.50-1.51 mm);
HW 1.51 mm (1.49-1.52 mm);
OI 24.51 (24.37-24.65);
PL 1.81 mm (1.80-1.81 mm);
PW 1.95 mm (1.94-1.96 mm);
PI 92.57 (92.35-92.78);
EL 7.63 mm (7.38-7.87 mm);
EW 2.87 mm (2.86-2.88 mm).

Females (n=5)

BL 10.90 mm (10.42-11.57 mm);
HL 1.52 mm (1.41-1.60 mm);
HW 1.56 mm (1.46-1.63 mm);
OI 33.16 (31.05-35.96);
PL 1.64 mm (1.56-1.73 mm);
PW 2.04 mm (1.90-2.18 mm);
PI 80.53 (75.34-84.37);
EL 7.93 mm (7.39-8.55 mm);
EW 3.15 mm (3.02-3.36 mm).

Differential diagnosis. – Most similar species with dorsal surface pale are *Bolbostetha minfongica* Novák, 2024 from China (Hainan Island) and *Bolbostetha thailandica* Novák, 2020 from Thailand (Hua Hin District).
New species *Bolbostetha luminaria* **sp**. **nov**. clearly differs from similar species by bicolor dorsal surface of elytra (Fig. 1) and by the shape of aedeagus (Fig. 5, 6); while *B*. *minfongica* and *B*. *thailandica* have dorsal surface of elytra unicolor and the shape of aedeagus is as in Novák 2024: 73: Fig. 15 and 16 for *B*. *minfongica* and as in Novák 2020: 49: Fig. 16 and 17 for *B*. *thailandica*.

Etymology. – Named after unussualy bicolor dorsal surface of elytra with dominantly ochre yellow, shiny, light parts. From Latin *luminaria* it means lights.

Distribution. – Laos (Xieng Khouang Province).

Fig. **1**-**6**. *Bolbostetha luminaria* **sp**. **nov**. (male holotype).

1. Habitus. **2**. Head and pronotum. **3**. Protibia. **4**. Abdomen. **5**. Aedeagus, dorsal view. **6**. Aedeagus, lateral view.

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Résumé

Novák V., 2026. – *Bolbostetha luminaria* **sp**. **nov**. (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Alleculinae: Alleculini), la première espèce connue du genre vivant au Laos. *Faunitaxys*, 14(14) : 1 – 4.

La nouvelle espèce d'Alleculini Laporte, 1840 - *Bolbostetha luminaria* **sp**. **nov**., première mention du genre au Laos (province de Xieng Khouang), est décrite et illustrée.

Mots-clés. – Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Alleculinae, Alleculini, *Bolbostetha*, taxonomie, description, nouvelle espèce, Laos, Région orientale.

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Volume 14, Numéro 14, Février 2026

SOMMAIRE

Bolbostetha luminaria **sp**. **nov**. (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Alleculinae: Alleculini), la première espèce connue du genre vivant au Laos.

Vladimír Novák . . . . . 1 – 4

CONTENTS

Bolbostetha luminaria **sp**. **nov**. (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Alleculinae: Alleculini), the first known species of the genus living in Laos.

Vladimír Novák . . . . . 1 – 4

Illustration de la couverture :

Type locality of *Bolbostetha luminaria* **sp**. **nov**.: Laos north, Xieng Khouang Province, Mount Samsoum.

Crédits:

Vladimír Novák : Fig. 1- 6 & couverture.

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